

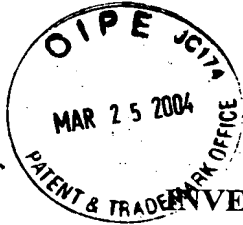
EXHIBIT A
(3 pages TOTAL)

USSN. 09/886,117
Examiner: KUHNS, ALLAN R
Group A.U.: 1732

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office
(Fax No. (001)(703) 305-7718) on the date shown below.

Milan, October 31, 2003


Guido MODIANO (Reg. No. 19,928)



Docket No. 34661/MEL/rf

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR : Gianni Franco ALESSIO
Ser. No. : 09/886,117
Filed : June 22, 2001
For : High-productive apparatus and method for molding...
Group A. U. : 1732
Examiner : KUHNS, ALLAN R

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231 U.S.A.

Sirs:

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136

The applicant herewith petitions the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for response to the Office action dated July 18, 2003 for three months from August 18, 2003 to November 18, 2003. Please charge the **deposit account number 13-3860** of applicant's agent of record, in the amount of **US\$ 475,00 (fee code 2253)** to cover the cost of the extension. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to the above numbered deposit account.

RESPONSE

This is in response to the Office Action dated July 18, 2003. In compliance with the requirement of the Examiner to elect a single disclosed and claimed species under 35 U.S.C. §121, and to list all claims readable thereon, Applicant

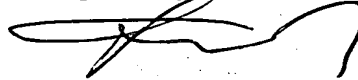
hereby elects the **species II** disclosed by the embodiment as shown in **Figures 1-4**.

The claims directed to the elected embodiment are **claims 13-18**.

Anyway, the right is reserved to file a divisional applications for the non-elected embodiments, if necessary.

Prosecution on the merits is therefore respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Guido MODIANO (Reg. No. 19,928)

Agent for the Applicant
Via Meravigli 16
20123 MILAN-ITALY
Tel. +39.02.8590.7777

Milan: October 31, 2003

* * * TRANSMISSION RESULT REPORT (31.OCT.2003 16:32) * * *

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DECLARATION

I the undersigned Rosita Fenino, residing in Caronno Pertusella, Via Roma 320, Italy, herewith declare that:

I am 36 years old and have a high school degree from the Istituto Professionale per il Commercio Bertarelli, my focus having been the English and German languages.

I am an employee of Modiano (a patent agent firm) since 1987, and am among other tasks assigned to the sending of telefaxes to various addressees outside Italy, in the area of patents.

When I send a facsimile transmission, I check the transmission report for the transmission issued by the facsimile machine and confirm that the transmission has been properly executed. Upon confirmation that the transmission was successful, I staple the transmission report to the original paper transmitted.

I have been shown an original AMENDMENT in connection with the US Patent Application Ser. No. 09/886,117 in the name of Gianni Franco ALESSIO, including the TRANSMISSION RESULT REPORT therefore and stapled thereto.

I accordingly attest that I successfully transmitted the original AMENDMENT + PETITION to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on October 31, 2003.

I verify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Milan, March 22, 2004

Rosita Fenino


EXHIBIT B